

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's review of the present application and respectfully requests reconsideration based on the amendments and following remarks. Applicant also appreciates the Examiner's indication that claim 14 contains allowable subject matter. Claims 13, 15 and 17-25 are pending in the present application.

35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner has rejected Claims 13 and 17-18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Hall in view of the publication WO 95/31950.

Independent claim 13 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 14 deemed allowable by the Examiner. Accordingly Applicant asserts that claim 13 is therefore allowable.

Claim 17 and 18 depend ultimately from claim 13. Claim 13 now incorporates subject matter deemed allowable by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 17 and 18 are therefore also allowable.

The Examiner has rejected claims 15 and 19-25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Hall combined with other references.

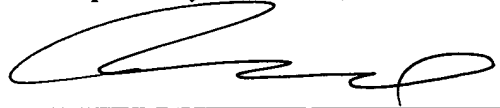
Claims 15 and 19-25 depend ultimately from amended claim 13. Claim 13 now incorporates subject matter deemed allowable by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 15 and 19-25 are therefore also allowable. It is asserted that this response therefore puts all claims in form for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such action is hereby solicited. The Examiner is invited and encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number below with any questions or concerns in furtherance of the prosecution of the present application.

Please charge any deficiency as well as any other fees which may become due at any time during the pendency of this application, or credit any overpayment of such fees to deposit account No. 50-0369. Also, in the event any extensions of time for responding are required for the pending application(s), please treat this paper as a petition to extend the time as required and charge deposit account No. 50-0369 therefore.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark S. Leonardo, Reg. No. 41,433
Brown Rudnick Berlack Israels LLP
One Financial Center, Box IP
Boston, MA 02111
Phone: 617-856-8145
Fax: 617-856-8201
Customer No. 21710

DATED: AUGUST 3, 2004